

Proclamation

It is estimated that one in five of our island residents, and their families, friends and employers, live with the effects of a mental illness, and these conditions directly affect more than five percent of Americans. The World Health Organization has reported that four of the 10 leading causes of disability in our country and other developed countries are mental disorders.

Mental illnesses are medical conditions that disrupt a person's thinking, feeling, mood, ability to relate to others and daily functioning. They can affect people of any age, race, religion or socioeconomic status.

Established in 1990 by Congress, the first week of October is designated as *Mental Illness Awareness Week* in recognition of National Alliance on Mental Illness's (NAMI) efforts to combat mental illness in our country.

With the theme *Building Community, Taking Action*, this national observance will raise awareness of mental illness; promote early intervention and treatment; and, acknowledge that recovery from these disorders requires community involvement, understanding and teamwork. The joint efforts of our federal supporters, state resources and local organizations will help to eliminate stigma and promote access to integrated systems of care, education and rehabilitation.

Bipolar Disorder Awareness Day was created to call attention to this particular disease, in order to minimize the devastating impact on the 2.3 million Americans presently affected by the disorder. When treated, individuals suffering from bipolar disorder can lead full and productive lives.

These two observances are an opportunity for everyone to work together in assisting those who are suffering from these diseases attain the resources they require. Together, we can spread the word that treatment is effective and can work for most people. Furthermore, an array of services are available, including access to peer-support services; housing; case management; treatment and medication; and, psychosocial rehabilitation, in order to promote and support recovery.

Moreover, cost-effective, proven treatment and services exist not only to aid in the recovery for people living with mental illness, but also to educate and support the families and friends whose lives are impacted by these diseases.

THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor of the State of Hawai'i, and **I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR.**, Lieutenant Governor, do hereby proclaim **October 1 through 7, 2006**, as

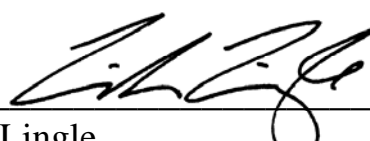
MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK

AND **October 5, 2006** as

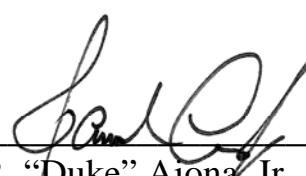
BIPOLAR DISORDER AWARENESS DAY

in Hawai'i, and urge all of our residents, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools to join our efforts in raising awareness about mental illnesses.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this fifth day of October 2006.



Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i



James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr.
Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai'i